

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0027

UNCLAS ROME 3692

AFDROUGHT

SUBJ: 1975 DONATED CEREALS REQUIREMENT

REF: A. STATE 051417

1. OSRO ADVISES. DONATED CEREALS DEFICIT HAS BEEN REDUCED THESE DAYS TO 77,000 TONS OF WHICH 60,000 TONS ARE NOW PLEDGED BY NON US DONORS AS NOTIFIED IN PARA 3 BELOW.

2. OSRO CONSIDERS MALI CEREALS SITUATION STILL INSECURE DUE STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION, AND PERENNIAL PROBLEMS UNLESS MDM RECOMMENDED TOTALS ARE PROVIDED AND DISTRIBUTED. THUS WE RECOMMEND YOU ALLOCATE PROPOSED 20,000 TONS WHICH TOGETHER WITH OTHER PLEDGES WILL NEARLY MEET APPARENT DEFICIT OF 35,650 MT. IT IS NOTED THAT DAKAR AND ABIDJAN ARRIVALS AND DATES AS YOU PROPOSE FIT PROJECTED PORT SITUATION. HOWEVER IN VIEW PRIORITY ACCORDED TO COTTON TRADE THERE IS CURRENTLY A SHORTAGE OF WAGONS EX COTONOU AND PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS WITH OCDN ARE ADVISABLE.

3. US DONORS HAVE PLEDGED BUT NOT YET ALLOCATED 60,000 TONS TO THE SAHEL. WE PROPOSING FRANCE SHIP 10,000 TO MALI APRIL MAY BUT NOT AWARE THEIR INTENTIONS FOR THEIR PLEDGED BALANCE 9,500 TONS. BELGIUM 9,000 TONS PLEDGE TO BE DISCUSSED WITH OSRO THIS WEEK. CANADA WILL SHIP 3,500 TONS WHEAT TO MAURITANIA WHEN SATISFACTORY INTERNAL DELIVERY CURRENT STOCKS IS REPORTED.

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EEC HAS JUST AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO PROVIDE 28,000 TONS FOR

DELIVERIES TO THE SAHEL AND WILL PROBABLY HOLD ADDITIONAL 20,000 MT AS PART OF 50,000 MT MDM RECOMMENDED REGIONAL RESERVE. THEREFORE THE OVERALL CEREALS IMPORT OBJECTIVES SET BY MDM ARE ESSENTIALLY MET IF YOU CAN SUPPLY THE 20,000 MT TO MALI.

4. HOWEVER WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR LOCAL PURCHASE CEREALS IN UPPER VOLTA DUE DETERIORATING INTERNAL SITUATION REPORTED FROM SEVERAL SOURCES. FINDS PRESENTLY AVAILABLE FOR THE ORD/FRG OPERATIONS ARE ONLY SUFFICIENT TO PURCHASE AND DISTRIBUTE ABOUT 8,000 TONS OF THE 20,000 RECOMMENDED BY MDM. FOR YOUR INFORMATION ANOTHER MAJOR DONOR HAS JUST EXPRESSED SERIOUS INTEREST IN LOCAL PURCHASE WHICH COULD COMPLEMENT YOUR POTENTIAL HELP TO UPPER VOLTA AND/OR TCHAD.VOLPE

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